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S/P - Mr. Nitze

August 1, 1951 1/2

S/P - Mr. Thurston

I attended in your stead a meeting held last evening in Mr. Matthews' office to consider the attached paper on the "Advisability of Increasing the Size of the Turkish Armed Forces." The following information resulted:

1. The project is not new. When considered previously it was disapproved, largely because it was opposed by General Collins;

2. Changed conditions, expected from the impending entry of Turkey into NATO and the establishment of a Middle East Command, make it advisable to revive the project--with probability of its acceptance;

3. General Bradley approves the project, and General Arnold has already submitted it informally to the JCS;

4. The project was approved at the meeting (obstacles to its application appear to be fiscal, not political) and Mr. Matthews will mention it at the end of today's JCS meeting, saying he understands it is before that body and that when it is ready to discuss it State would like to know as it regards it as important; and

5. It was pointed out that the project should be held as secret and should not be discussed until Turkey enters NATO with the Turks, the British or Nato.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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